UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/266
24 March 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 24 MARCH 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TAJIKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On the instructions of my Government I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan on 24 March 1998 (see annex).

I should be very grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) R. ALIMOV
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Tajikistan to the
United Nations

98-07715 (E) 240398 240398

/...

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement dated 24 March 1998 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan

Provocative actions by individual armed groups of the United Tajik Opposition have become more frequent recently in the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Government of the Republic Tajikistan has repeatedly pointed this out to the Opposition's leadership.

The citizens of Tajikistan are seriously concerned by the fact that during the period from January through March 1998 in various towns and districts of the country, armed Opposition units led by individual field commanders have been blatantly violating the peace agreements reached and are in fact continuing to carry out acts of military confrontation.

The failure of the Opposition's leadership to take decisive measures to halt acts of murder, robbery, banditry, sabotage, the taking of hostages and other terrorist acts directed against the servicemen of Governmental forces and members of the internal forces as well as peaceful inhabitants of the Republic by individual armed units of the Opposition is jeopardizing the peace process in Tajikistan, defeating the efforts by all the wholesome forces of society to bring about national accord, trust and mutual understanding by the parties. The passive and evasive position of the leaders of the United Tajik Opposition in this matter has resulted in further victims and given rise to an unhealthy situation in the Republic.

Accordingly, on 24 March 1998, at approximately 9 a.m., a group of fighters from the United Tajik Opposition under the command of Field Commander Namozov carried out an armed attack against a militia post in the Kafirnigan district, which resulted in the death of six persons - five militia members and one peaceful inhabitant. An additional 30 persons, including civilians, sustained wounds of varying degrees of severity.

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan has repeatedly called upon the leaders of the United Tajik Opposition and the Commission on National Reconciliation to halt the illegal actions by individual armed units of the Opposition, but, unfortunately, they have not taken effective measures.

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, taking into consideration the continuing terrorist acts, the killing of citizens, the taking of hostages and the blackmail to which residents of the districts where there are armed Opposition units are subjected, states that it has the right to take the most decisive measures against armed groups that aim to destabilize the social and political situation in individual regions of the Republic.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan appeals to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) and the Guarantor States of the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan to assess correctly the actions by the armed units of the United Tajik Opposition in order to ensure that they comply with that Agreement and take the corresponding measures in that regard.

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/267
25 March 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Portugal: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions and, in particular, its resolutions 986 (1995) of 14 April 1995, 1111 (1997) of 4 June 1997, 1129 (1997) of 12 September 1997, 1143 (1997) of 4 December 1997 and 1153 (1998) of 20 February 1998,

Welcoming the report submitted on 4 March 1998 (S/1998/194 and Corr.1) by the Secretary-General in accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 1143 (1997) and noting with appreciation, as mentioned in this report, the commitment expressed by the Iraqi Government to cooperate with the Secretary-General in the implementation of resolution 1153 (1998),

Concerned about the resulting humanitarian consequences for the Iraqi people of the shortfall in the revenue from the sale of petroleum and petroleum products during the first 90-day period of implementation of resolution 1143 (1997), due to the delayed resumption in the sale of petroleum by Iraq and a serious price drop since the adoption of resolution 1143 (1997),

Determined to avoid any further deterioration of the current humanitarian situation,

Reaffirming the commitment of all Member States to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. Decides that the provisions of resolution 1143 (1997) shall remain in force, subject to the provisions of resolution 1153 (1998), except that States are authorized to permit the import of petroleum and petroleum products originating in Iraq, including financial and other essential transactions directly relating thereto, sufficient to produce a sum not exceeding a total of 1.4 billion United States dollars within the period of 90 days from 00.01, Eastern Standard Time, on 5 March 1998;

2. Decides to remain seized of the matter.

98-07966 (E) 250398

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/268
25 March 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its resolutions 1125 (1997) of 6 August 1997, 1136 (1997) of 6 November 1997, 1152 (1998) of 5 February 1998, and 1155 (1998) of 16 March 1998,

Recalling the report dated 10 March 1998 (S/1998/221) to the Security Council by the International Committee for the follow-up of the Bangui Agreements pursuant to resolution 1152 (1998),

Recalling also the letter dated 11 March 1998 from the President of the Central African Republic to the President of the Security Council (S/1998/219, annex) and the letter dated 13 March 1998 to the President of the Security Council from the President of Gabon, on behalf of the members of the International Committee for the follow-up of the Bangui Agreements (S/1998/233, annex),

Having further considered the report of the Secretary-General of 23 February 1998 (S/1998/148) submitted to the Council in accordance with resolution 1152 (1998),

Reiterating its appreciation for the neutral and impartial way in which the Inter-African Mission to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements (MISAB) has carried out its mandate, in close cooperation with the Central African authorities and noting with satisfaction that MISAB has contributed significantly to stabilizing the situation in the Central African Republic, in particular through the supervision of the surrendering of arms,

Recognizing that the States participating in MISAB and the Central African Republic extended the mandate of MISAB until 15 April 1998 in order to ensure a smooth transition to the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation,

Stressing the importance of regional stability and the need to consolidate the progress achieved by MISAB, and in particular to assist the people of the

Central African Republic to consolidate the process of national reconciliation and help to sustain a secure and stable environment conducive to the holding of free and fair elections,

Stressing also the need for all signatories to the Bangui Agreements to continue to implement these Agreements, and for the authorities of the Central African Republic to take concrete steps to implement political, economic, social and security reforms as referred to in the report of the Secretary-General of 23 February 1998 including the establishment of an electoral code and preparations for legislative elections scheduled for August/September 1998,

Recognizing the link between peace and development and that a sustained commitment by the international community to assist and support the economic, social, and institutional development of the Central African Republic is indispensable for long-term peace and stability in the country, and in that regard welcoming the cooperation between the Government of the Central African Republic and the international financial institutions in developing an economic reform programme,

Determining that the situation in the Central African Republic continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

A

1. Welcomes the progress made by the Central African authorities and parties towards the achievement of national reconciliation and sustainable stability in the Central African Republic;

2. Urges the Government of the Central African Republic to continue to fulfil the commitments expressed in the letter of 8 January 1998 to the Secretary-General from the President of the Central African Republic (S/1998/61, annex) and calls upon the parties in the Central African Republic to complete the implementation of the provisions of the Bangui Agreements and to implement the National Reconciliation Pact (S/1998/219, annex);

3. Reiterates its call to all States, international organizations and financial institutions to assist in post-conflict development in the Central African Republic;

B

4. Welcomes the efforts made by the Member States participating in MISAB and by those States providing support to them, and their readiness to maintain these efforts;

5. Approves the continued conduct by the Member States participating in MISAB of the operation in a neutral and impartial way to achieve its objective as set out in paragraph 2 of resolution 1125 (1997);

6. Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, authorizes the Member States participating in MISAB and those States providing

logistical support to ensure security and freedom of movement of their personnel;

7. Decides that the authorization referred to in paragraph 6 above will end on 15 April 1998;

8. Recalls that the expenses and logistical support for MISAB will be borne on a voluntary basis in accordance with article 11 of the mandate of MISAB, and encourages Member States to contribute to the Trust Fund for the Central African Republic;

C

9. Decides to establish a United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA) with effect from 15 April 1998, and decides also that the military component of MINURCA will not exceed 1,350 personnel;

10. Decides that, taking into account the recommendations of the Secretary-General in his report of 23 February 1998, MINURCA shall have the following initial mandate:

(a) To assist in maintaining and enhancing security and stability, including freedom of movement, in Bangui and the immediate vicinity of the city;

(b) To assist the national security forces in maintaining law and order and in protecting key installations in Bangui;

(c) To supervise, control storage, and monitor the final disposition of all weapons retrieved in the course of the disarmament exercise;

(d) To ensure security and freedom of movement of United Nations personnel and the safety and security of United Nations property;

(e) To assist in coordination with other international efforts in a short-term police trainers program and in other capacity-building efforts of the national police, and to provide advice on the restructuring of the national police and special police forces;

(f) To provide advice and technical support to the national electoral bodies regarding the electoral code and plans for the conduct of the legislative elections scheduled for August/September 1998;

11. Authorizes the Secretary-General to take the measures necessary to ensure that MINURCA is fully deployed by 15 April 1998 in order to carry out its mandate, and to secure a smooth transition between MISAB and MINURCA;

12. Decides that MINURCA is established for an initial period of 3 months until 15 July 1998 and expresses its intention to decide on the extension of MINURCA on the basis of the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 15 below;

13. Affirms that MINURCA may be required to take action to ensure security and freedom of movement of its personnel in the discharge of its mandate;

14. Welcomes the appointment by the Secretary-General, within MINURCA, of his Special Representative in the Central African Republic:

(a) To assist in the promotion of the reforms necessary to achieve national reconciliation, security and stability in the country;

(b) To head MINURCA;

(c) To have overall authority over all United Nations activities in the Central African Republic, in support of MINURCA's mandate;

(d) To provide good offices and mediation between the Government and political parties;

(e) To provide advice and facilitate technical assistance in the areas of good governance and the rule of law;

(f) To cooperate with other international partners, including international financial institutions, with the objective of supporting activities aimed at establishing the foundations for lasting peace, national reconstruction and development;

(g) To encourage the United Nations agencies and programmes to provide assistance to the Central African Republic, in particular in the areas referred to in the report of the Secretary-General;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to keep the Security Council regularly informed and to submit a report to the Security Council by 20 June 1998 on the implementation of the mandate of MINURCA, on developments in the Central African Republic, on progress towards the implementation of the commitments expressed in the letter of 8 January to the Secretary-General from the President of the Central African Republic and on the implementation of the Bangui Agreements and the National Reconciliation Pact, including on commitments related to ensuring the country's economic recovery;

16. Further requests the Secretary-General to provide information in his report referred to in paragraph 15 above on the progress by the Government of the Central African Republic to adopt an electoral code, set a date for the legislative elections, and develop specific plans for the conduct of the legislative elections, and to make recommendations on the future role of the United Nations in the legislative elections process;

17. Urges Member States to respond positively to the request made to them by the Secretary-General to contribute personnel, equipment and other resources to MINURCA in order to facilitate its early deployment (S/1998/148);

18. Approves the intention of the Secretary-General to establish a trust fund to enable Member States to make voluntary contributions to support the

activities of MINURCA and to assist in the financing of the Mission and urges Member States to contribute to it;

19. Requests the Government of the Central African Republic to conclude a status-of-forces agreement with the Secretary-General before 25 April 1998, and recalls that pending the conclusion of such an agreement, the model status-of-forces agreement dated 9 October 1990 (A/45/594) should apply provisionally;

20. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/269
25 March 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS IRAQ-KUWAIT OBSERVATION MISSION

(24 September 1997-23 March 1998)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report provides an account of developments and activities in respect of the mandate entrusted to the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), in accordance with Security Council resolutions 687 (1991) of 8 April 1991, 689 (1991) of 14 June 1991 and 806 (1993) of 5 February 1993. It covers the period from 24 September 1997 to 23 March 1998.

II. DEVELOPMENTS IN THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE

2. The situation in the demilitarized zone was generally calm, despite the tension created in the Gulf region by the crisis over weapons inspections in Iraq. UNIKOM carried out its normal operations without interruption during the period under review.

3. Two serious incidents occurred during the period. The first, on 20 November 1997, involved firing at a UNIKOM position (N-4) located on the Iraqi side of the demilitarized zone. A United Nations military observer was seriously wounded and United Nations property, including vehicles and accommodation units, were damaged during the incident. An investigation carried out by UNIKOM could not establish the motive for the shooting nor the identity of the attackers. The Force Commander lodged a strong complaint with the Iraqi authorities, who instituted their own investigations without success. The second incident involved the hijacking at gunpoint of a UNIKOM patrol vehicle, also on the Iraqi side of the demilitarized zone, on 18 February 1998. In this case too, a strong complaint was lodged with the Iraqi authorities. The vehicle was found stripped of equipment on 10 March 1998 on the edge of the Iraqi side of the demilitarized. The identity of the hijackers remains unknown. There were a few minor incidents of Iraqi children throwing stones at UNIKOM patrols in the demilitarized zone. No injuries were sustained, and damage to property was insignificant.

4. There were 12 ground violations and one in the Khawr Abd Allah waterway. Five involved firing by unknown persons, three occurred on the Kuwaiti side and two on the Iraqi side. UNIKOM patrols found unauthorized weapons on three occasions at Kuwaiti police posts inside the demilitarized zone and once at an Iraqi police post. One violation involved a Kuwaiti military truck inside the demilitarized zone. Another violation occurred in the Khawr Abd Allah waterway on 20 January 1998, when a Kuwaiti landing craft unit and a Kuwaiti coast guard patrol boat, each mounted with a machine gun, were observed in the waterway near the vicinity of Warbah Island on the Kuwaiti side of the demilitarized zone. Iraq complained of firing from these vessels at an unarmed Iraqi patrol boat that was on the Iraqi side of the demilitarized zone. UNIKOM investigated, but could not confirm, the firing. Two unauthorized border crossings were recorded. One involved an Iraqi civilian who crossed the border into Kuwait seeking asylum. He was handed over to the Kuwaiti police, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) were informed. The second occurred when three Iraqis went into Kuwait to rescue a camel that had fallen into a trench.

5. Air violations increased significantly; 179 were recorded (up from 49), most of them in February 1998. Although most of the aircraft flew too high to be identified, on 29 occasions the aircraft were identified as F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, C-130, KC-135, UH "Apache" helicopters, Black Hawk helicopters and E2C military planes. Such aircraft are used by the coalition forces in the region, but the nationalities could not be confirmed.

6. A total of 12 oral complaints were recorded during the period under review, down from 35 recorded in the previous period (see S/1997/740). Six complaints were lodged by Iraq and six by Kuwait.

7. Activities in the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr continued to increase. A total of 125 vessels, of which 122 came under the "oil-for-food" programme, docked at the port. Three other vessels brought relief assistance.

8. Oil drilling activities continued on both sides of the border, mainly on the Kuwaiti side at the Al-Ratqa oilfield. On the Iraqi side, only two new sites have been drilled, also within the Al-Ratqa oilfield.

9. Work is almost complete on the electric fence that Kuwait is erecting along the border. The fence has almost reached the southern limit of the demilitarized zone. More work remains to be done, particularly on the remote-controlled gates.

10. In my previous report, I indicated that work had begun on a project aimed at improving the monitoring of the Khawr Abd Allah waterway. The upgrading of the radar and night vision equipment was completed at the end of January 1998, and the construction of the additional observation post is in progress.

11. UNIKOM disposed of unexploded mines and bomblets in the demilitarized zone. A total of 1,882 unexploded devices, including a 500 kilogram aircraft bomb, 2 missiles, 181 bomblets, 130 rockets, 637 artillery and mortar rounds and 931 other devices, were destroyed. Unexploded mines and bomblets inside the

demilitarized zone, mostly on the Iraqi side, continued to cause casualties, some of them fatal, to civilians living and working in the area.

12. UNIKOM provided security and logistic support for meetings of the ICRC Technical Subcommittee on Military and Civilian Missing Prisoners of War and Mortal Remains on 10 November and 21 December 1997 and 3 February and 18 March 1998. They were conducted in the demilitarized zone, alternately at UNIKOM headquarters in Umm Qasr, Iraq, and at the UNIKOM support base at Camp Khor, Kuwait. ICRC representatives from Iraq and Kuwait, delegations from Iraq and Kuwait, and observers from France, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America attended the meetings.

13. UNIKOM continued to maintain close and regular liaison with the authorities of both Iraq and Kuwait at various levels, including through its liaison offices in Baghdad and Kuwait City. Both parties cooperated with the Mission in the conduct of its operations.

III. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

14. As at March 1998, the overall strength of UNIKOM was 1,292, comprising:

(a) A total of 193 military observers, from Argentina (3), Austria (6), Bangladesh (5), Canada (4), China (11), Denmark (5), Fiji (5), Finland (5), France (11), Ghana (5), Greece (5), Hungary (6), India (5), Indonesia (5), Ireland (6), Italy (5), Kenya (6), Malaysia (5), Nigeria (6), Pakistan (6), Poland (5), Romania (5), the Russian Federation (11), Senegal (5), Singapore (5), Sweden (6), Thailand (5), Turkey (7), the United Kingdom (11), the United States of America (11), Uruguay (5) and Venezuela (2);

(b) An infantry battalion of 767 from Bangladesh;

(c) An engineering unit of 42 from Argentina;

(d) A logistics unit of 34 from Austria;

(e) A helicopter unit of 35 from Bangladesh;

(f) A medical unit of 14 from Germany;

(g) A total of 207 civilian staff, of whom 60 were recruited internationally.

15. On 1 December 1997, Major-General Esa Tarvainen (Finland) succeeded Major-General Gian Giuseppe Santillo (Italy) as Force Commander. I wish to pay tribute to General Santillo for the professional and effective manner in which he provided leadership to UNIKOM.

IV. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

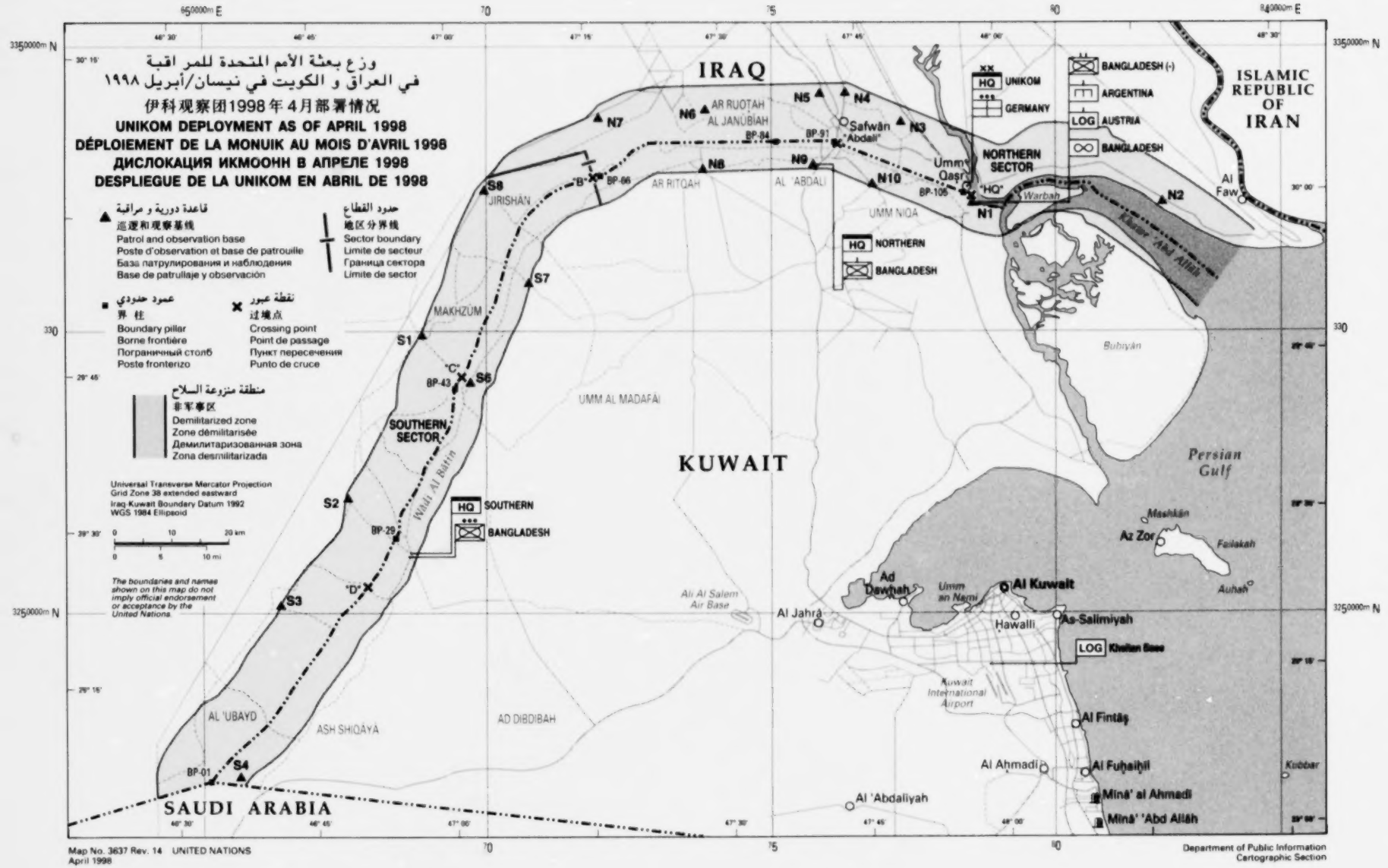
16. The General Assembly, in its resolution 51/234 of 13 June 1997, appropriated $51,487,500 gross for the maintenance of UNIKOM for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, subject to review by the Security Council with regard to the question of termination or continuation of the Mission. Two thirds of the cost of the Mission, equivalent to some $33.1 million, is to be funded through voluntary contributions from the Government of Kuwait. Assessments on Member States have been made for the period ending 30 April 1998, and the Government of Kuwait has paid its voluntary contributions for the period ending 30 April 1998.

17. As at 20 March 1998, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for UNIKOM since the inception of the Mission through 30 April 1998 amounted to $12.4 million, representing some 5 per cent of the assessment for the Mission. The unpaid assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations amounted to $1.7 billion.

V. OBSERVATIONS

18. UNIKOM continued to contribute to the maintenance of calm and stability in the demilitarized zone. The situation along the border was generally quiet, and UNIKOM received the cooperation of the Iraqi and Kuwaiti authorities in discharging its duties. During the month of December, I used the opportunity of a visit to Kuwait to travel to the demilitarized zone in order to review the situation on the ground. I was satisfied with the manner in which UNIKOM was carrying out its work and contributing to ensuring stability in this sensitive area. I recommend that the Mission be maintained.

19. In conclusion, I wish to pay tribute to Major-General Tarvainen and the men and women, military and civilian, under his command for the manner in which they have discharged their responsibilities. Their discipline and bearing have been of a high order, reflecting credit on themselves, on their countries and on the United Nations.



Map No. 3637 Rev. 14 UNITED NATIONS
April 1998

Department of Public Information
Cartographic Section

UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/841
S/1998/270
26 March 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda item 61
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 26 March 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, which were recorded on 11 March 1998.

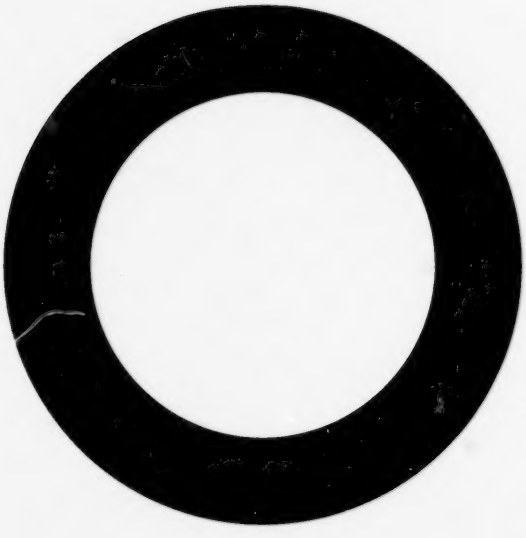
On that day, at 0933 hours, one Turkish Air Force C-130 entered the Nicosia flight information region from a northern direction, violating the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the Cape of Apostle Andreas and exiting at 1035 hours in a south-eastern direction.

Also on the same day, at 1437 hours, the same aircraft violated anew the national airspace of the Republic, entering the flight information region from a southern direction flying, once again, over the area of the Cape of Apostle Andreas and then exiting at 1512 hours towards the Ankara flight information region.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest against the new violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, which are in complete disregard of the Charter of the United Nations, the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus as well as the regulations of the International Civil Aviation Organization.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotirios ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/271
25 March 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

LETTER DATED 25 MARCH 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to draw your attention to my letter dated 27 February 1998, a copy of which has been annexed hereto, concerning the summary statement on matters of which the Council is seized and on the stage reached in their consideration.

In this connection, I should like to request that you have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Bruno RODRIGUEZ PARRILLA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 27 February 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to document S/1998/44 of 9 January 1998, the summary statement on matters of which the Security Council is seized and on the stage reached in their consideration.

In this connection, I have the honour to inform you of the interest of the Government of the Republic of Cuba in maintaining on the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized all the items submitted by the Republic of Cuba for the consideration of this principal organ of the United Nations, as contained in document S/1998/44.

(Signed) Bruno RODRIGUEZ PARRILLA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/272
27 March 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 27 MARCH 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to draw to your attention the text of a statement on Kosovo agreed by the members of the Contact Group at their meeting in Bonn on 25 March 1998 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Bill RICHARDSON

Annex

Statement on Kosovo issued by members of the Contact Group in Bonn on 25 March 1998

1. We, the Foreign Ministers of Contact Group countries, together with the Deputy Chairman in Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Chairman in Office's personal representative for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the European Union Special Representative, the High Representative and the representatives of the European Commission met in Bonn on 25 March to review developments in Kosovo and to follow up decisions reached at our 9 March London meeting.

2. In London, we called upon President Milosevic to take rapid and effective steps to end the violence in Kosovo and commit himself to a political solution through unconditional dialogue. We adopted an action plan to advance these goals, decided on a series of concrete measures, and agreed to reconsider these measures if President Milosevic took the steps required by the Contact Group.

3. We insist that an urgent start be made in the process of unconditional dialogue with the leadership of the Kosovar Albanian community, involving federal and republic levels of government. Neither party should attempt to predetermine the outcome. We expect President Milosevic to implement the process of unconditional dialogue and to take political responsibility for ensuring that Belgrade engages in serious negotiations on Kosovo's status.

4. Today we have reviewed the situation in Kosovo, including the degree of compliance by President Milosevic, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Serbian authorities with the requirements of the London statement.

5. Since our meeting in London, there has been progress in some areas of concern, notably, some movement in Belgrade's position on dialogue on a range of issues, including the autonomy of Kosovo and the conclusion of the long-overdue agreement on implementation of the education accord.

6. Our overall assessment is that further progress by Belgrade on certain points in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the London statement requiring action by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Serbian governments is necessary. Therefore, we have agreed to maintain and implement the measures announced on 9 March, including seeking adoption by 31 March of the arms embargo resolution currently under consideration in the United Nations Security Council. We call upon President Milosevic again to implement fully all the relevant steps in the London statement.

7. We demand that authoritative delegations from both sides convene rapidly in order to agree upon a framework for a substantive negotiation process and agree to the participation in the negotiating process of an outside representative or representatives. We will accept no pretext for delaying such a process. We affirm the willingness of the Contact Group to facilitate talks, recognizing that international engagement in support of dialogue is essential to the achievement of a political solution.

8. We agree that the Contact Group will meet again in four weeks' time to reassess the situation. Our assessment and subsequent decision will take account of a report on compliance to be submitted to the Contact Group by the Troika of OSCE, if they agree to our request to prepare such a report. If President Milosevic takes the steps specified in London, we will reconsider existing measures, including action in the Security Council, to terminate the arms embargo. If Belgrade fails to meet the London Benchmarks, and if the dialogue does not get under way within the next four weeks because of the position of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia or Serbian authorities, we shall take steps to apply further measures as announced in London.

9. Unless the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia takes steps to resolve the serious political and human rights issues in Kosovo, there is no prospect of any improvement in its international standing. On the other hand, concrete progress to resolve the serious political and human rights issues in Kosovo will improve the international position of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and prospects for normalization of its international relationships and full rehabilitation in international institutions. We urge President Milosevic to cooperate fully with the mission of Mr. Felipe González as the Personal Representative of Chairman-in-Office of OSCE and Special Representative of the European Union. Once the González mission is under way, it will certainly be possible to address the potential for participation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the work of OSCE.

10. We take this opportunity to reaffirm our strong opposition to all terrorist actions. Violence does not contribute to the search for a solution in Kosovo. This applies equally to Serbian police and Kosovar Albanian extremists. We will use all appropriate elements of pressure and influence with both sides to ensure that violence does not escalate and that the serious dispute over Kosovo's status between Belgrade and the Kosovar Albanian community is resolved strictly through peaceful means. We urge those outside the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia who are supplying financial support, arms or training for terrorist activity in Kosovo to cease doing so immediately.

11. We welcome Dr. Rugova's clear commitment to non-violence and urge others in the leadership of the Kosovar Albanian community to make their opposition to violence and terrorism both clear and public. Belgrade authorities cannot, however, justify their repression and violence in Kosovo in the name of anti-terrorist activities. We repeat that the way to combat terrorism is for Belgrade to offer the Kosovar Albanian community a genuine political process.

12. We applaud the work of Sant'Egidio and of the 3+3 commission in reaching agreement on measures to implement the 1996 Education Agreement. We call upon all sides to ensure that implementation proceeds smoothly and without delay, according to the agreed timetable. We are considering what assistance we can provide to facilitate implementation. We will also consider measures if either party blocks implementation. We urge all sides to cooperate with Sant'Egidio in efforts to reduce tensions in other social sectors as well.

13. The fundamental position of the Contact Group remains the same. We support neither independence nor the maintenance of the status quo as the end result of negotiations between the Belgrade authorities and the Kosovo Albanian leadership

on the status of Kosovo. Without prejudging what that result may be, we base the principles for a solution to the Kosovo problem on the territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and on OSCE standards, the Helsinki principles, and the Charter of the United Nations. Such a solution must also take into account the rights of the Kosovar Albanians and all those who live in Kosovo. We support a substantially greater degree of autonomy for Kosovo which must include meaningful self-administration.

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/273
27 March 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 23 MARCH 1998 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT).

Brigadier-General Boleslaw Izydorczyk (Poland), who has been the Chief Military Observer of UNMOT since 10 March 1997, will relinquish his command on 14 April 1998 and return to his national service. Following the usual consultations, it is my intention to appoint Brigadier-General Tengku Ariffin Bin Tengku Mohammed (Malaysia) as the next Chief Military Observer of UNMOT.

I should be grateful if you would convey this information to the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

98-08307 (E) 270398

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/274
27 March 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 27 MARCH 1998 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 23 March 1998 (S/1998/273) concerning your intention to appoint Brigadier-General Tengku Ariffin Bin Tengku Mohammed (Malaysia) as the next Chief Military Observer of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They agree with the intention contained in your letter.

(Signed) Abdoulie MOMODOU SALLAH
President of the Security Council

98-08313 (E) 270398